

Whereas, Mr. Sprague has been instrumental in forming partnerships to increase water use efficiency in Orange County.

Whereas, Mr. Sprague has taken a primary role in focusing the CALFED efforts towards meeting Southern California's supply reliability and water quality needs.

Whereas, Mr. Sprague has been involved in providing expert testimony on a myriad of water issues at both the State and Federal level.

Therefore, I join with the entire Orange County Congressional delegation in acknowledging the vital role that Stanley E. Sprague has played in Orange County's water supply, and wish him well upon his retirement from the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

CURRENT STATUS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in the last ninety years, Taiwan and the United States of America have been allies, partners, and friends. In times of need and turmoil, both countries have always come to each other's aid. In the aftermath of the tragedies of September 11th, 2001 Taiwan immediately offered condolences to the victims of those terrorist attacks, expressed shock over the attacks and condemned such violence. Moreover, to show solidarity with the American people, Taiwan's government ordered flags be flown at half-mast for two days, took every action to protect U.S. citizens on the island, including stepped-up security at the American Institute in Taiwan, and asked all Taiwan offices in the U.S. to cancel their National Day celebrations.

Today Taiwan is under pressure by China. China accuses Taiwan's planned peace referendum as a move toward Taiwanese independence and says it would push Taiwan to the "abyss of war." Such rhetoric is a clear distortion of Taiwan's true intent. In the face of an overwhelming military threat against Taiwan, Taiwanese president Chen Shui-bian in this referendum is asking his voters whether they should buy more anti-missile weapons if China refuses to withdraw missiles targeted at Taiwan and whether Taiwan should open up talks with China about issues of peace.

Taiwan has no intention to provoke China into conflict. It merely aims to avoid war and free its people from the fear that they now face on a daily basis. Taiwan, our ally and friend, is a democracy with a competitive party system and they should have the inherent right to self-determine their own policies and the future of the island without the prospect of fear. I sincerely urge a continuation of peace across the Taiwan straits as well as the good relations between the Taiwanese people and Americans.

HONORING THE SACRAMENTO LIONS CLUB ON THEIR 50TH AN- NIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization with a distinguished history of community service to the Capital Region. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary Celebration on March 6, 2004. As the members and friends of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club gather to celebrate this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most important and respected civic groups.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club was chartered on April 4, 1954 to become a part of the Lions Club, the world's largest service organization. Lions Clubs are non-political, non-sectarian service clubs composed of the community's leading business and professional people. The purpose of a Lions Club is more than good fellowship and club social life. The purpose is to recognize community needs and develop means of meeting them, either through its own effort or in cooperation with other agencies. Lionism is an active and effective medium for national and world service, exerting tremendous influence for national welfare, international amity and human progress socially, culturally and economically. For the past 50 years, the Sacramento Senators Lions Club embodies all of the best qualities that Lionism represents.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club was the first all Americans of Japanese ancestry in the United States. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club was founded upon the principle that the club should strive to provide its members with the opportunities to collectively serve the community through efforts of fund-raising and hands-on-service projects. Today, the Sacramento Senator Lions Club is a vital service organization that is composed of civic-minded persons of both sexes and many diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club has a history of community service that stretches beyond Sacramento and across international borders. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club reached a twinning agreement with the Osaka Tezukayama Lions Club of Japan during the International Lions Club in New Orleans in 1977. In recent years, mutual donations have been made to projects in Osaka, Japan. Donations to the Sacramento Senator Lions Club have played a great role in developing the fragrance garden for the visually handicapped and the Japanese garden for children at the Fairytale Town. In addition, the Sacramento Senator Lions Club is also actively involved in helping many other local organizations; Canine Companion for the Blind, City of Hope, My Sister's House for Abused Women, just to name a few. The Sacramento Senator Lions Club commitment to improve the quality of life for people from all different walks of life is truly commendable and admirable.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club is internationally renowned as one of the most successful and respected Lions Club chapters in the world. The lofty status of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club was confirmed

when their member, Kay K. Fukushima, was elected to be the 86th President of the International Association of Lions Club for the year 2002-2003.

Mr. Speaker, as the friends and family of the Sacramento Senator Lions Club gather to celebrate their 50 years of great service to the people of Sacramento, I am honored to pay tribute to one of the Capital Region's most active service organizations. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Sacramento Senator Lions Club continued success in all its future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANNE CISLE MURRAY FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HELPING CHILDREN AT RISK

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Anne Cisle Murray, whose commitment to helping children at risk is being honored by the Boys Hope Girls Hope organization of Illinois as the 2004 recipient of the Joseph S. Kearney Heart of Gold award.

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois is a privately funded organization that reaches out to children who have shown academic promise, yet live with a family or in a community that has put them at risk. The mission of BHGH is to provide these children with stable home and academic environments and support them in all their endeavors up through college.

Originally from Hamilton, Ohio, Anne Cisle Murray graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a business degree in 1974, a member of the first co-ed graduating class. In 1979 she married Steve Murray with whom she has three children, Tricia, Dan and Mac. Anne's devotion to her family has carried over into her Community through the time and effort she dedicated to the at-risk youth of Illinois. Her accomplishments and hard work as a mother, mentor and organizer in the public service arena will be recognized and commemorated in our nation's capitol today.

Since joining Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois, Anne Cisle Murray has served all the executive positions on the organization's Women's Board. In addition to her presence on the Board of Directors and the Marketing Committee, she has also served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Dinner Dance Chairperson and Auction Chairperson.

On a personal level, Anne and her family have been generous to the BHGH organization for many years. Anne reaches out to the community by welcoming young students in the program to her home to facilitate social interaction and familiarity with the other program families. Her general thoughtfulness and care ensure the success of the BHGH program and its participants.

Anne Cisle Murray's determination to enrich the lives of children has made her a priceless member of Boys Hope Girls Hope of Illinois. By investing her time and love of children into this organization, Anne Cisle Murray has helped to make the future brighter for the at-risk children of Illinois.